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INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0113  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3684  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0093  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0958

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DEPT FOR QR/CARC, DAS KAIDANOW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/25/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AJ](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: AZERBAIJAN: ADDITIONAL AFGHAN SUPPORT DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 120807Q

Classified By: Charge Terry Davidson, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Charge, accompanying Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. Celeste Wallander, delivered Reftel A demarche November 23 to President Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Defense Gen-Col Safar Abiyev and Minister of Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov.

¶2. (C) The primary additional contribution contemplated for Azerbaijan is a EUCOM-led Train and Equip (TEP) program that would facilitate a battalion-strength rotational deployment. The Foreign Ministry has expressed the desire to place conditions on the program (septels), with the Defense Ministry deferring to MFA's desires. However, consultations regarding the TEP are continuing, with Embassy working to secure GOAJ approval for a EUCOM assessment team to visit Azerbaijani units in the field.

¶3. (C) The President remained on-message regarding Azerbaijan's capacity to increase its commitments to Afghanistan, saying "(w)e have doubled our troops before, and can do it again," and - referring to TEP - "(w)e can find a way." The Foreign Minister separately expressed reservations about moving forward, desiring first to know more fully the contours of the United States' future strategy. That said, the President and Ministers confirmed Azerbaijan's intent to fulfill its present commitments and offered no indication that was about to change.

DAVIDSON